

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****Patent and Trademark Office**Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/222,336 12/28/98 STORY

G 02541.P009

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RETTA, Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2764

DATE MAILED:

03/28/00

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/222,336	Applicant(s) Story et al.
	Examiner Yehdega Retta	Group Art Unit 2764



Responsive to communication(s) filed on Jan 19, 2000

This action is **FINAL**.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, **prosecution as to the merits is closed** in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle* 935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Disposition of Claim

- Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) 9 and 19 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 1-8, 10-18, and 20-30 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

- See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.
- The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.
- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.
- received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.
- received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited, PTO-892
- Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). 7
- Interview Summary, PTO-413
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948
- Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

— SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES —

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DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to amendment filed 1/19/00.

Claims 9 and 19 have been canceled and claims 24-30 have been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The indicated allowability of claims 3, 5, 10, 13, 15, 20 and 23 are withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to licensing of digital audio content. Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless --

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1,2, 4-8, 10-12, 14-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Stefik et al U.S.Patent No. 5,629,980.

5. As per claims 1, 2 and 4-6, Stefik et al. (Stefik) disclose creating license having different cardinalities, the license created by a license management device; storing the license in a set of playback devices in response to a command from the license management device; storing the

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license in a digital contents (see col. 6 lines 37-66 and col. 19 lines 12-55 for digital content referring to audio, Video etc) and authorizing playback of the digital content with the playback devices (see abstract, col. 11 lines 30-37 and col. 19 lines 12-55).

6. Claims 7 and 8, are rejected as stated above in claim 1 and it is further noted that the playback device being a hardware or software is an inherent feature.

7. Claim 10 is rejected as stated above in claim 1.

8. Claims 11, 12 and 14-16 are rejected as stated above in claim 1.

9. Claim 20 is rejected as stated above in claim 11 and it is further noted that the playback device being a hardware or software is an inherent feature.

10. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected as stated above in claim 1.

11. Claims 24, 28-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Looney et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,969,283.

12. As per claim 24, Looney et al. (Looney) disclose license having a first cardinality being created by a license management device, the digital data signal further comprising a first digital audio content that is at least a subset of a digital audio programming, wherein a set of playback devices receive the digital data signal and authorize playback of the first digital audio signal if the license included in the data signal matches at least one license stored in the respective playback devices (see col. 2 lines 51-58 and col. 7 lines 8-59).

13. Claims 28 and 29 are rejected as stated above in claim 24 and it is further noted that the playback device being a hardware or software is an inherent feature (see col. 3 lines 6-10).

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14. As per claim 30, Looney disclose the first digital audio comprising digital Video programming (see col. 3 lines 6-10 and col. 15 lines 6-23).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

15. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

16. Claims 3, 13 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Stefik et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,629,980 as applied to claims 1, 11 and 21 above, and further in view of Wyman U.S. Patent No. 5745879.

17. As per claims 3, 13, and 23, Stefik et al. does not specifically disclose at least one playback device belonging to a second set. Wyman disclose different nodes belonging to different accounts (see abstract and col. 1 lines 14-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant' invention to combine Stefik and Wyman's invention in order to provide flexibility or alternatives for varied licensing of parts or features of software packages as stated in Wyman (see col. 2 lines 18-34).

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18. Claims 25-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Looney et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,969,283 as applied to claim 24 above, and further in view of Wyman U.S. Patent No. 5745879.

19. As per claims 25-27, Looney disclose access code authorizing the user's system playback the digital audio (see col. 2 lines 51-58). However it does not specifically disclose the cardinality being fixed, variable or unlimited, it is disclosed in Wyman (see col. 13 line 43 to col. 14 line 20). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to combine Looney and Wyman's invention in order to provide flexibility or alternatives for varied licensing of parts or features of software packages as stated in Wyman (see col. 2 lines 18-34).

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Eller et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,889,860, Encryption system with transaction coded decryption key.

Schneck et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,933,498, System for controlling access and distribution of digital property.

Buying Music Over the Internet, Newsbytes, ½/98, <http://drlink.mnis.net/cgi-bin/index.cgi>...N=Reynolds%2C+pamela&U=preynolds&B=Rank.

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Web Review--Liquid Audio Fine tunes music on demand, John Gilles,
<http://www.webreview.com/97/01/03/feature/index.html>.

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yehdga Retta whose telephone number is (703) 305-0436. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached on (703) 305-9768.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 308-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

or:

(703) 308-5397, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive Arlington, Virginia, (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

James P. Trammell
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2700

Examiner
Yehdga Retta
Art Unit 2764
March 21, 2000